(d) if so, by when both the domestic and international services are likely to be make available during night time from Visakhapatnam Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Provision of Night Landing Facilities and other essential Visual and Navigation Aids, Solar Powered Obstructions Lights on identified hills, DVOR and Instrument Landing System at Visakhapatnam has been completed so as to permit night operations of aircraft at Visakhapatnam Airport. ATC services at this airport are operated by the Indian Navy and the technical manpower for airport operations is required to be provided by Navy as per their requirements.

(c) and (d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation has conveyed no objection for operationalsation of night landing facilities on 22.2.2008 subject to certain conditions.

Delay in delivery of aircrafts by Boeing

492. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has purchased Boeing 777-200 LR and Boeing 777-300 ERs from Boeing company;

(b) if so, the details of the delivery schedules;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Boeing company is not delivering the aircrafts as per schedule; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delays of delivering of the aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The erstwhile Air India had placed an order for 8 B777-200LR and 15 B777-300ER aircraft from Boeing company. Two B777-200 LR have been received in July, 2007 and one each in August, 2007, December, 2007 and February, 2008. Two, B 777-300 ERs have been received in October, 2007 and one in December, 2007.

(c) and (d) There have been some delay in the delivery schedule of the initial batch of aircraft due to an inplant strike in Boeing and delay in the seat programme schedule.

Closure of Begumpet Airport

493. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Begumpet Airport, the 6th largest airport in India would be closed once the Shamsabad Airport comes into operation;

(b) if so, whether it is prudent to close an airport which has shown growth of 39 per cent in traffic revenue collections in the first 8 months of this year;

(c) whether the Begumpet Airport would be kept operational for domestic traveller keeping the popular public demand in view; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) In terms of the Concession Agreement signed between Government of

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India and Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL), the existing airport at Begumpet shall be closed for commercial operations once the new airport at Shamsabad becomes operational. However, this airport can be used for transportation of dignitaries by VIP aircraft and for general aviation services.

Star Alliance Network

494. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has joined the Star Alliance network;

(b) if so, how the joining of Air India in Star Alliance help Air India and its passengers; and

(c) how joining Star Alliance help Air India operation and its proposed European hub in Munich or Vienna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India (AI) has been accepted as a future member of Star Alliance.

(b) and (c) Once a member of the Alliance, AI will be able to derive benefits by way of special/preferred rates under "Umbrella Agreements" entered into by Star Alliance with various industry service providers, which will lead to reduction in cost and increase in revenues. It will also be able to offer Premium Customer Benefits, Common Star Products etc. to its customers. Its entry into Star Alliance could also contribute significantly to the success of its planned European Hub - by way of feed provided by the Star carriers to Air India's services at the Hub.

Medical facilities at airports

495. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an NRI died at the Mumbai International Airport due to medical negligence;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) what arrangements are in place at various airports for emergency treatment and first-aid as the aviation industry and air travel has risen tremendously; and

(d) how many such cases have been reported in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Airport-wise details are as under:

(i) IGI Airport, Delhi: Round-the-clock medical inspection units are functional.

(ii) CSI Airport, Mumbai: Three fully equipped medical rooms supported by ICU ambulances and trained staff are functional round the clock.

(iii) Chennai, Kolkata and Trivandrum airports: Medical inspection rooms managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) medical officers are functional.

(iv) Ahmedabad, Calicut, Jaipur, Nagpur, Dimapur, Mangalore, Tiruchirapalli and Goa